Black Carbon cloud over the country

3263. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists have warned that Black Carbon cloud over the country rings alarm bells; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to end continued dependence on coal based power plants and growing vehicular pollution, which has pushed the country towards an inevitable climatic catastrophe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) refers to the high loading of pollutants in the atmosphere consisting of mixture of anthropogenic sulphate, nitrate, organics, black carbon, dust and fly ash particles and natural aerosols such as sea salt and mineral dust.

The exact impacts of pollutant loading over monsoon rain and agriculture are still under study and the International program on Atmospheric Brown Cloud has been initiated by the world community to understand such impacts.

(b) Considering the fact that coal is to remain mainstay for generation of electricity in India in short to medium term perspective, new plants are being encouraged to adopt more efficient and clean coal technologies. Besides, 1,50,000 MW hydro initiative has been launched to achieve the objective of full hydro potential. Non Conventional Energy sources are also being encouraged and 11,125 MW out of total installed capacity of 1,43,061 MW in the country is contributed by renewables. Measures have also been taken to improve the air quality and reduce the pollutant loading *e.g.* introduction of tightened emission norms for vehicle, improvement in fuel quality in transport sector, use of cleaner fuels, introduction of electrostatic precipitators in thermal power plants, introduction of biogas plants and improved cookers in rural sector etc.

Tiger protection projects

3264. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for drastic reduction of tiger population in India;

(b) the total number of National Park where tiger protection projects are implemented;

(c) the total budget and expenditure in these projects for last ten years; and

(d) the action that has been taken against these officers concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The main reasons for tiger decline in areas outside tiger reserves/ protected areas, as seen in the findings of the recent, refined country level estimation, are as below:

(i) Degradation of forest status outside Protected Areas/Tiger Reserves owing to:

(a) human pressure

(b) livestock pressure

(c) ecologically unsustainable land uses

(ii) Loss of forest quality in terms of prey biomass

(iii) Tiger deaths due to poaching

(iv) Tiger deaths due to man-animal conflict

(v) Fragmentation leading to loss of gene flow from source populations

(vi) Loss of reproduction owing to disturbance on account of heavily used infrastructure like highways, etc.

(vii) Lack of adequate protection in outside areas

(viii) Insurgency/law and order problems

(b) At present, there are 28 Tiger Reserves spread over 17 tiger States where the Project Tiger Scheme is being implemented. During the current plan period, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger has been extended to 8 new Tiger Reserves in seven tiger States.

(c) The plan period-wise allocation and tiger reserve-wise release of fund during the last 10 years are given at the statement (*See* below).

(d) The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. The general decline of tiger status is discernable outside the Tiger Reserves/Protected Areas in such States, owing to various causative factors as indicated, which are beyond the control of officers in-charge of tiger reserves.

Statement

Release of funds to Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger Scheme during Ninth Plan and Tenth Plan

Allocation during Ninth Plan—Rs.75 crores

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bandhavgarh	19.52	22.29	37.025	33.607	80.695
2.	Bandipur	25.00	67.34	91.37	96.70	93.01
3.	Bhadra	—	2.00	75.709	96.66	88.484
4.	Buxa	20.00	58.895	56.37	53.18	51.206
5.	Corbett	73.87	137.88	162.95	99.215	181.825
6.	Dampa	12.45	9.65	21.43	27.58	20.495

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Dudhwa	51.142	61.87	71.28	82.44	67.40
8.	Indravati	23.70	37.54	46.205	15.00	35.00
9.	Kalakad Mundanthurai	45.60	32.50	58.78	60.315	16.00
10.	Kanha	40.00	113.85	164.895	222.15	200.10
11.	Manas	45.08	35.00	87.29	89.00	40.00
12.	Melghat	48.83	68.28	52.00	62.93	89.731
13.	Nagarjunsagar	10.70	18.01	29.036	45.00	21.00
14.	Namdapha	20.00	47.68	30.590	32.607	82.76
15.	Nameri	—	—	—	67.10	6.00
16.	Pakke	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Palamau	22.00	84.55	78.912	86.662	75.625
18.	Panna	14.00	26.935	42.235	35.00	96.785
19.	Pench (MP)	—	24.51	41.80	97.59	49.60
20.	Pench (Mah.)	36.998	17.15	43.80	59.241	72.20
21.	Periyar	34.95	39.19	43.665	50.00	50.00
22.	Ranthambore	71.80	88.265	110.635	122.325	103.608
23.	Sariska	78.085	384.00	111.94	177.380	66.711
24.	Satpura	—	—	—	30.22	45.00
25.	Similipal	49.30	67.65	84.95	83.31	126.81
26.	Sunderban	38.95	121.09	80.77	45.00	90.97
27.	Tadoba-Andheri	11.70	25.31	38.95	45.76	47.30
28.	Valmiki	14.75	69.44	87.04	0.415	50.00
	TOTAL:	808.425	1660.875	1749.627	1916.387	1948.255

Allocation during Tenth Plan—Rs. 150 *crores*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bandhavgarh	170.87	90.12	85.00	142.50	170.39
2.	Bandipur	170.365	160.39	367.095	321.925	175.00
3.	Bhadra	119.195	108.93	119.197	105.83	44.067
4.	Buxa	30.00	52.45	50.75	87.50	60.00
5.	Corbett	168.00	200.91	200.12	147.182	160.295
6.	Dampa	98.32	67.56	94.34	61.00	78.16
7.	Dudhwa	32.75	173.585	175.215	152.687	75.00
8.	Indravati	32.48	80.25	27.75	1.2175	10.00
9.	Kalakad Mundanthurai	125.00	35.00	80.00	90.00	85.165
10.	Kanha	232.37	282.86	197.50	241.00	211.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Manas	50.70	50.00	—	80.00	30.00
12.	Melghat	71.462	60.00	93.183	165.00	134.51
13.	Nagarjunsagar	21.10	22.89	15.00	45.923	35.00
14.	Namdapha	35.875	38.75	—	75.00	75.00
15.	Nameri	15.00	25.00	—	—	35.00
16.	Pakke	—	30.00	35.00	74.10	135.4725
17.	Palamau	18.00	35.99	72.5005	153.00	100.00
18.	Panna	287.50	563.53	60.00	97.00	150.00
19.	Pench (MP)	47.80	68.97	97.43	128.63	75.85
20.	Pench (Mah.)	104.108	97.19	87.77	75.00	45.00
21.	Periyar	63.75	120.68	105.75	105.00	109.00
22.	Ranthambore	225.92	14.245	—	142.053	100.876
23.	Sariska	69.00	144.085	79.00	127.00	—
24.	Satpura	47.90	97.92	170.00	100.00	134.97
25.	Similipal	32.88	151.91	116.4395	80.00	150.25
26.	Sunderban	138.33	172.72	274.74	129.68638	117.30
27.	Tadoba-Andheri	446.22	71.26	75.00	63.07	50.00
28.	Valmiki	25.00	50.00	85.00	3.475	37.1454
	TOTAL:	2879.895	3067.2105	2763.78	2994.77888	2584.7909

Scheme to inculcate environment awareness

3265. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to inculcate environment awareness among the members of public and students in particulars;

(b) the essential features of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme is implemented in the State of Goa; and

(d) details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Scheme on "Environment Education, Awareness and Training" implemented by the Ministry involves activities/programmes such as:

(i) National Green Corps Programme;

(ii) National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC);

(iii) Seminar/Symposia/Workshops; and

(iv) Environment Appreciation Courses, etc.

(c) and (d) Under the Scheme indicated in reply to parts (a) & (b) above an amount of Rs. 13,23,190/- was released during 2007-08 to support 500 Eco-clubs in the State of Goa under the National Green Corps Programme. Further, grants of Rs. 26,000/- and Rs. 10,000/-